Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Method for illuminating an object with light ~~(2)~~ from a laser light source ~~(3), preferably in a confocal scanning microscope (1), characterized in that~~ **comprising varying** the phase angle of ~~the~~ **a** light field ~~is varied by~~ **with** a ~~modulation means~~ **modulator (4)** in such a way that interference phenomena do not occur in ~~the~~ **an** optical beam path, or occur only to an undetectable extent, within a predeterminable time interval.

2. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** an EOM ~~(4)~~ (electro-optical modulator) is employed as the ~~modulation means~~ **modulator**.

3. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the EOM ~~(4)~~ is arranged directly downstream of the laser light source ~~(3)~~.

4. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** a mirror, a lens or a beam splitter is used as the ~~modulation means~~ **modulator** ~~(4)~~.

5. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the ~~modulation means~~ **modulator** ~~(4)~~ is mounted in such a way that it also vibrates or oscillates as a result of vibrations or oscillations of ~~the~~ **an** optical structure or of ~~the~~ **a** casing.

6. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the ~~modulation means~~ **modulator** ~~(4)~~ is moved using a control element.

7. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the control element is a piezo element.

8. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the ~~modulation means~~ **modulator** influences the laser light source.

9. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the ~~modulation means~~ **modulator** switches the laser light source on and off.

10. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the ~~modulation means~~ **modulator** influences the pump current of the laser **light source**.

11. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the ~~modulation means~~ **modulator** influences ~~the~~ **an** intensity of the ~~laser~~ light ~~source~~.

12. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the ~~modulation means~~ **modulator** influences ~~the~~ **a** laser resonator or ~~the~~ **an** optical medium of the ~~laser~~ **light**.

13. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the ~~modulation means~~ **modulator** is a piezo element which **at least one of** moves and~~/or~~ deforms at least one component of the laser resonator ~~and/or~~ the optical medium.

14. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** a noise signal ~~(5)~~, a periodic signal ~~(5)~~ or a stochastic signal ~~(5)~~ is applied to the ~~modulation means~~ **modulator**.

15. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** a noise generator ~~(7)~~ is used to produce the noise signal ~~(5)~~.

16. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized by use~~ **wherein the method is used** in a confocal scanning microscope ~~(1)~~.

17. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the predeterminable time interval is shorter than ~~the~~ **a** pixel clock of the confocal scanning microscope ~~(1), preferably shorter than the time interval corresponding to half the pixel clock~~.

18. (currently amended) Method according to Claim ~~1~~ **16**, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the **modulator is adapted to modulate** ~~modulation is synchronized~~ **in synchronization** with ~~the~~ **a** scanning process of the confocal scanning microscope ~~(1)~~.

19. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** a ~~change in the~~ wavelength of the ~~laser~~ light ~~(6)~~ **is changed by the modulator** due to ~~the~~ modulation**, and wherein the change** is taken into account by ~~the~~ **a** control unit of an AOTF (acousto-optical tunable filter) or AOBS (acousto-optical beam splitter) which injects the ~~laser~~ light.

20. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** ~~a change in the~~ power of the ~~laser~~ light ~~(6)~~ **is changed by the modulator** due to ~~the~~ modulation **, and wherein the change** is taken into account by ~~the~~ **a** control unit of an ~~AOTF or AOBS~~ **AOTF (acousto-optical tunable filter) or AOBS (acousto-optical beam splitter)** which injects the ~~laser~~ light.

21. (new) Method according to Claim 5, wherein the optical structure is a portion of a confocal scanning microscope.

22. (new) Method according to Claim 17, wherein the predeterminable time interval is shorter than a time interval corresponding to half the pixel clock.

23. (new) A confocal scanning microscope adapted to illuminate an object with light from a laser light source, comprising a modulator adapted to vary the phase angle of a light field of the light in such a way that interference phenomena does not occur in an optical beam path of the microscope, or occurs only to an insignificant extent, within a predeterminable time interval.

24. (currently amended) The confocal scanning microscope of Claim 23, wherein the modulator is an EOM (electro-optical modulator).

25. (currently amended) The confocal scanning microscope of Claim 23, wherein a mirror, a lens or a beam splitter is used as the modulator.

26. (currently amended) The confocal scanning microscope of Claim 25, further comprising a piezo element adapted to move the modulator.

27. (currently amended) The confocal scanning microscope of Claim 23, further comprising a piezo element adapted to at least one of move and deform at least one component of a laser resonator and an optical medium.

28. (currently amended) The confocal scanning microscope of Claim 23, further comprising an AOTF (acousto-optical tunable filter) or AOBS (acousto-optical beam splitter)

adapted to inject the light into an optical structure of the microscope; wherein at least one of the AOTF or the AOBS is adapted to take into account a change of at least one of power and a wavelength of the light resulting from modulation by the modulator.